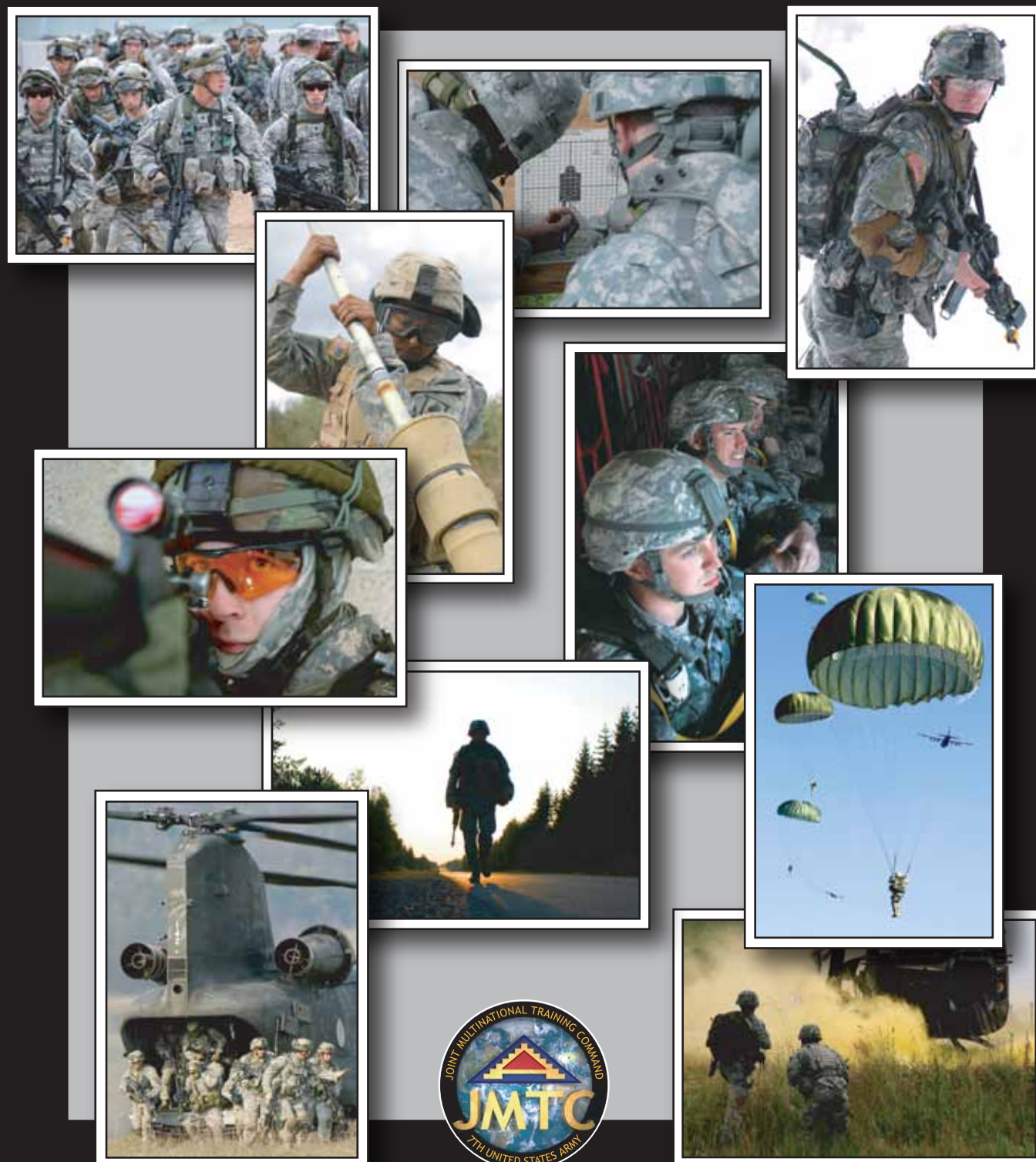


JMTC HONORS AND CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER

2009

The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer



COVER STORY: INTRODUCTION BY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DARIEUS A. ZAGARA



We Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) are called the "backbone of the Army," in part because of the tremendous legacy of more than 200 years of history, which dates back to our Nation's founding in 1775. In the pages that follow you will meet some of the most accomplished and professional NCOs the Army has to offer. Their dedication to mission and their personification of the Army values is evident through their work daily. In recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our Nation, and the sacrifices of those that came before, the Secretary of the Army has established 2009 as Year of the NCO. I'm proud to introduce you to the extraordinary NCO Corps that makes the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) an extraordinary institution.

The JMTC offers a wide-variety of training opportunities for the development of today's NCOs. The JMTC provides facilities, but it is the unit's responsibility to be flexible and adaptive in their approach to training and utilization of our resources.

Brigadier General Salazar and I, and the rest of the JMTC team are committed to providing the best possible facilities, facility support and resources to training units to ensure the success of our Soldiers on the battlefield, against any foe, wherever they may be. We invite you all to visit the Command prior to training rotations, and receive an executive overview of the available resources to ensure the most effective use of your valuable training time.

In addition to providing more than 57,000 acres of ranges and training areas at the Grafenwoehr Training Area and 40,000 acres at the excellent neighboring facilities at Hohenfels, U.S. Army and multinational units face a professional, freethinking,

opportunities- based operational force (OPFOR) during mission-rehearsal exercises and maneuver training. Having the OPFOR at the disposal of the training unit allows a commander to use tactical decision-making processes to develop a course of action to defeat the adversary. Likewise, because of proximity

to other European nations and Africa, the JMTC can easily provide joint and multinational training opportunities between other U.S. services and/or allied partners. It is more likely that that units will train with their coalition partners here, before deploying downrange. It's just the way we do business. When a unit comes to Grafenwoehr, they are guaranteed realistic joint and multinational training. All it takes is a little imagination from the training unit and the facilities managers. Grafenwoehr is the home the Army's oldest Noncommissioned

Officer Academy, the 7th Army NCOA and a premier Warrior Leaders Course (WLC).

For the Fiscal Year 2009, more than 3300 NCOs graduated from the WLC, and of that number about 80 Soldiers were from partnering or allied nations - countries like Uganda, Liberia, Greece, Poland, Slovenia and Turkey. I'm sure the success of the NCOA is in large part due to

the great measure of cooperation that exists within USAREUR. Everyone has played a significant role, the unit Schools NCOs, the academy cadre and the students.

The focus on excellence and inclusion of international NCOs serves to broaden the experience of the student NCOs and the cadre, making it one of the most unique academic experiences offered in the U.S. Army today.

I am proud to be associated with an organization that has the ability to create such long-lasting results for the U.S. Army, while also contributing to the Nation's diplomatic goals of fostering peace and cooperation in the region.



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All under one command, the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas, the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy (7th Army NCOA), the Combined Armed Training Center and the Directorate of Simulations and Training Support provides a live, virtual and constructive playground for all things training.

Out on the ranges the JMTC provides a myriad of small unit leader capabilities, the Leader Reaction Course, Confidence Course, and Land Navigation Courses, which are largely underutilized. Additionally, there are training sites for military operations in urban terrain and shoot houses that can be used with simulations, munitions, and for live-fire training. Many of our live fire ranges can be transitioned to convoy live-fire lanes, as well as, squad maneuver live-fire. There is almost nothing that our experts at Range Operations

will not do to modify the facilities to support the units training requirements. Units are encouraged to use our facilities. The depth and breadth of training opportunities available is unmatched anywhere. Our training areas can support current and future expeditionary forces composed of airborne, artillery, aviation, infantry, as well as, a variety of excellent training opportunities for brigade combat teams.

On South Camp, the CATC has a myriad of courses to enhance your unit's ability to accomplish its mission. There are courses in maintenance, safety, nuclear-biological-chemical agents, small arms master gunner skills, a First Sergeant's Course, a Close Quarters Combat, Urban Breacher's Course, in addition to the Combat Life Saver Course and Combat Medic Advance Skills Training, and the list goes on.

There are 48 courses available. Most can be conducted at a home station, all one must do is make the request.

A "gem" often overlooked on the East Camp is the Directorate of Simulations and Training Support (DOS-TS). While the Joint Multinational Simulations Center (JMSC), DOS-TS' state-of-the-art simulation center, has the ability to train staffs from brigade-level to a three-star deployable headquarters, it also trains individuals and Tactical Operations Centers (TOCs) on all the battle command systems the Army uses today to control Soldiers and equipment on the battlefield.

One tool the JMSC administers to ensure well-trained Soldiers and TOCs, the Digital University is always available to assist in training U.S. personnel and current or potential coalition partners. The DOS-TS serves as the single point of contact, or the one-stop-shop, for all of USAREUR's homestation, deployed, or simulation training support.

The mutual respect and cooperation earned by working and training with our allied partners is evident through the

success of the International Special Operations Training Center (ISTC), a hidden jewel that resides just outside Stuttgart, in Pfullendorf, Germany and offers Special Operations training to a select group of Soldiers in the areas of Sniper, Close Quarter Battle Course as well Medical training, Combat Survival Course, Patrol Course, and vehicle recognition just to name a few of the many courses available or in planning at that particular facility.

These Soldiers from the ranks of main stream Army do not have to be 18 series; however they must be prepared to meet the rigorous physical requirements of each course.

It would take quite a book to build the complete picture regarding the expanse of this Command; There are highly trained NCO's and superb resources that are available to units that want to train.

TRAIN TO WIN!



Staff Sgt. Christopher Massey
Age: 29
Current Unit: 7th Army NCO Academy
Current Position: Small Grp Ldr, WLC
Component: Active Army
Current Location: Grafenwoehr, FRG
Hometown: Little Compton, RI
Years of Service: 11

Story & photo by Staff Sgt. Lyttleton Yates
JMTC Public Affairs

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Massey spends 32 days building up the future of the Army, 48 Soldiers at a time.

He'll tell you that he's just doing his job, trying to make sure that Soldiers attending his Warrior Leaders Course (WLC) know what right looks like. "So often, we as NCOs just take people's word for what 'right' really is," he said. "WLC tells the sergeants that come through here what the Army expects from them in their position as a leader.

As a Small Group Leader (SGL) for the WLC taught at the 7th Army's Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Massey knows his position as a mentor is important to the careers of many young troops.

"My SGL, during PLDC, appeared to be very lazy. She spent no more time than was absolutely required with us, and was blatant about not caring about making us into better leaders," he said. "NCOs teach and lead by experience. "I believe the biggest gain from the combatives program, as a whole, is the confidence it gives an individual to close the distance with an enemy. This confidence extends well beyond just hand-to-hand confidence." he said. Whether he's teaching study groups or combative courses – what he's too modest to admit is that he epitomizes leadership – he is what right looks like.



Sgt. 1st Class Thorsten Lamm
Age: 42
Current Unit: 7th Army JMTC
Position: JMTC GTA Safety NCOIC
Component: Army
Current Location: Grafenwoehr, FRG
Hometown: Potsdam, NY
Years of Service: 18

Story by Katie Cooper
JMTC Public Affairs

If the soldiers are using safe and smart methods while training, that's how you know Sergeant 1st Class Thorsten Lamm is on the job.

Lamm works at the Joint Multinational Training Command's, Grafenwoehr Range Control. He is the GTA Safety NCOIC. Knowing who's training and where is only part of his job. His main focus is the safety of the soldiers, who come to the Training Area to prepare for deployment and combat. "Joining the military was the best decision of my life," said Lamm, "It's the best system in the world, and it's the best for my family."

He joined the military 1990, to help pay off student loans. If asked if he'd stay in the military for more than 18 years, he would've answered no. However, he has now been in the Army for over 18 years and believes it to be the best system in the world.

A German native, Lamm was born in Karlsruhe, Germany and moved to the United States during his teen years. Lamm takes his job very seriously. He doesn't hesitate when it comes to safety. He'll shut down a range if he has to because of safety. "A lot of NCO's have forgotten what a leader should do. It's taking care of the soldiers, that's my priority." Lamm said. "Soldiers First, Self Second."



Sgt. 1st Class Charise Kelly
Age: 36
Current Unit: JMRC Falcon Team
Current Position: Observer/Controller
Component: Active Army
Current Location: Hohenfels, FRG
Hometown: Atmore, AL
Years of Service: 19

Story & Photo by Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

During her deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Charise Kelly was forced to make split-second decisions to

save her Soldiers lives. Now, as a sergeant first class, Kelly is tasked with providing Soldiers the tools to be able to make those same decisions - in a safe environment.

As a Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) Observer Controller for Headquarters Company JMRC Falcon Team, Kelly strives to make predeployment training as realistic as possible to ensure Soldiers will be successful downrange.

"In Iraq, I had four rockets land on my fuel bag farm outer berm," she said. "I got all my Soldiers to safety and lucky enough, not one of them detonated.

Kelly describes her Observer/Controller style as very in your face, very direct from the start, but very thorough and informative. "When a new unit comes in," she said, "they think I'm hard core and I shock them a bit. But I'm going to make sure that they know what to do in any situation I toss at them. I want them to come back alive and safe. I teach Soldiers how to react so if they can't find that NCO who outranks them, they can take charge in the absence of leadership," she said. "They will look back one day and say 'my NCO taught me that. That's when you know you were successful."



Sgt. Robert Murray
Age: 25
Current Unit: Delta Co.,
1st Batt., 4th Inf. Regt.
Position: Team Leader/Gunner
Component: Active Army
Current Location: Hohenfels, FRG
Hometown: Port Charlotte, FL
Years of Service: 8

Story by Denver Makle
JMTC Public Affairs

At the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels, Sergeant Robert Murray makes his money playing war games.

He is a member of the professional opposing force at the JMRC. Murray is a tank-gunner and team leader. His unit supported the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) since 2004. It deploys a company-size unit, during each ISAF rotation to Afghanistan. When not deployed, the 1-4 helps to train U.S. and International Soldiers for deployments downrange.

He's no ordinary Soldier, Murray has deployed, but with the Navy, before he became a Soldier.

"I was on oil platforms off the coast of Iraq, and transferring from ship to ship," said Murray "They were U.S. civilian ships that carried other ships."

Murray expects to deploy with the 1-4. He says they are well-trained, and he is glad to go downrange with the team. "Before we deploy, the Company D, does a pre-op training. We keep going over and over the skills," he said.

"We do battle drills, and everyone knows what to do without thinking." "Good NCOs should be smart on their feet, and know how to lead, they have to know thier Soldiers."

-- Robert Murray is the winner of the 2009 JMTC Soldier of the Year Competition.

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JMTC SOLDIER IS ARMY'S TOP NCO FOR 2009

Story by Denver Makle, JMTC Public Affairs



**Sgt. 1st Class
Aaron Beckman**

Age: 31
Current Unit: 7th Army
Noncommissioned Officers Academy
Current Position: Senior Small
Group Leader
Component: Regular Army
Current Location: Grafenwoehr, FRG
Hometown: Venango, NB
Years of Service: 12

He is calm and unassuming; he speaks with authority when it comes to training and mentoring Soldiers.

SFC Aaron Beckman, senior

small group leader of Company C, 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy in Grafenwoehr, Germany, loves what he does for a living. He is a Soldier that loves soldiering.

"You can always take something from everyone, either how to do something well, or how not to do it," he said.

"Learn from mission, and every senior, peer and subordinate." Beckman leads a platoon of four staff sergeants and 48 sergeants in four squads. He leads, coaches, and counsels them in NCO leadership, during the stringent 390-hour Warrior Leader Course, a basic leadership course that provides Soldiers with an opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to lead a team size element. Training others to be the best puts pressure on him to be the best, he said, to prove he could hold his own against other NCOs he accepted a challenge to compete in the 2009 Joint Multinational Training Command's NCO of the Year competition.

"I had to ensure my Soldiers were as good as I, or better than I am," he said.

Beckman won the title, and went on to compete and win the U.S. Army Europe competition, August 13, 2009.

"It was fun being a Soldier again, he said. "Anything you think a Soldier needs to be proficient at, we were tested on start-to-finish."

Deployed in 1999 to Kosovo; 2002 in Kuwait; and during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, Beckman is no stranger to what it takes to serve in the Army during war.

"Deployments give you the opportunity to apply what you have learned, perfect your battle drills, and take lessons learned to prepare for the next time," said Beckman. "There is no better way to get better than by actually doing your job."



Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Beckman, senior small group leader (SGL) of Company C, 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) in Grafenwoehr, Germany, is the winner of the United States Army's 2009 Best Warrior Competition.

Beckman competed against 22 other Soldiers, during the week-long competition hosted from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2 at Fort Lee, Va. The Soldiers demonstrated their abilities on written examinations, an appearance before a military board, day-and-night land navigation courses, live-fire ranges, and during combatives competition.

In June and after winning the local competition, Beckman said he thought being a senior small group leader at the NCOA gave him a special advantage.

"One thing that is unique about Sgt. 1st Class Beckman is that he is a legitimate senior NCO. He doesn't have to prove anything to anyone - most of the time, the NCO competitions are won by younger NCOs because their Soldier skills are more current; they use them during their daily activities," said Command Sgt. Major Hu Rhodes, commandant of the 7th Army NCOA, "Working at the NCOA means Beckman gets to perform the Soldier skills daily as he instructs the students." Rhodes said, U.S. Army Europe provides the academy with exceptional NCOs, which has helped the Academy sustain a higher level of competency and quality over the past 60 years.

"It reflects great credit on the unit, but it's an accumulation of skills over the course of a career," said Rhodes "Even among the special group of NCOs we get, Sgt. 1st Class Beckman stands out.

We are justifiably proud."

This month the NCOA celebrates its 60th anniversary. The 7th Army NCOA is the oldest in the United States Army.



FEATURE

Leaders training leaders

By Staff Sgt. Gina Vaile-Nelson,
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Kentucky Army National Guard

WLC INSTRUCTOR LEARNS BY TEACHING TOMORROW'S NCOS

Wearing full battle-rattle under a canopy of pine trees, Soldiers attending the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) at the 7th U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) in Grafenwoehr were evaluated after three weeks of classroom and hands-on instruction in becoming a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the U.S. Army. "It definitely showed me what my weaknesses are," said Sgt. Carlos A. Lopez, a medic assigned to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center attending WLC. Lopez said he doesn't get much time to practice and become proficient in tactical field operations. For that reason, his small group leader and WLC instructor, Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Conn selected him as the first squad leader during the evaluation period. "Soldiers get put in a leadership position at their units without having learned the basic NCO fundamentals," Conn said. "This school takes that Soldier, puts him back at the beginning and brings him up in a crawl, walk, run phase." During the month-long course, Lopez and 139 other Soldiers, received instruction using the modern training facilities available at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. The Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) manages and operates the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training areas, which includes the NCOA. "Before, my leadership style was a little more passive," Lopez said. "Now going through this course, I've become a little more aggressive in certain areas, and also become more knowledgeable about NCO business."

For Conn, instructing the WLC students is just as much of a learning experience for him as it is for his Soldiers. "Being an instructor is more than just putting out info," Conn said. "You get to put your experiences out there and take in experiences from other Soldiers. "There are Soldiers out here who are more experienced in some areas than we are, so we take that experience from the Soldier and implement it during training," he said. Conn said watching Lopez and his other students negotiate the training lanes during their evaluations was instant proof of his effectiveness in the classroom. "It definitely lets you know if you are a good instructor," he said. "You hope that these guys take from you what you give them and they do well in the field."

He said the most vital take-away is how these Soldiers will present their new leadership skills at their home unit, or downrange in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"We train Soldiers to go to war, and it makes all the difference on the battlefield."



This article available on the web at:
<http://www.hqjmtc.army.mil>

